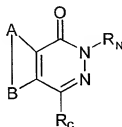


WE CLAIM:

1. A method of treatment of a disease of the human or animal body mediated by PARP comprising administering to such a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula:

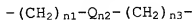


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- or an isomer, salt, solvate, chemically protected form, and prodrug thereof, wherein:

A and B together represent an optionally substituted, fused aromatic ring;

R_C is represented by -L-R_L, where L is of formula:



- wherein n₁, n₂ and n₃ are each selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3, the sum of n₁, n₂ and n₃ is 1, 2 or 3 and Q is selected from O, S, NH, C(=O) or -CR₁R₂-, where R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen or optionally substituted C₁₋₇ alkyl, or may together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a C₃₋₇ cyclic alkyl group, which may be saturated (a C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl group) or unsaturated (a C₃₋₇ cycloalkenyl group), or one of R₁ and R₂ may be attached to an atom in R_L to form an unsaturated C₃₋₇ cycloalkenyl group which comprises the carbon atoms to which R₁ and R₂ are attached in Q, -(CH₂)_{n₃}- (if present) and part of R_L; and R_L is optionally substituted C₅₋₂₀ aryl; and R_N is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl, and C₅₋₂₀ aryl, hydroxy, ether,

nitro, amino, amido, thiol, thioether, sulfoxide and sulfone.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the fused aromatic ring(s) represented by -A-B- consists of solely carbon ring atoms.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the fused aromatic ring represented by -A-B- is benzene.

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4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the fused aromatic ring is unsubstituted.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein R_N is hydrogen.

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6. A method according to claim 1, wherein L is of formula: $-(CH_2)_{n1}-Q_{n2}-$, where $n1$ is selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3 and $n2$ is selected from 0 and 1, where the sum of $n1$ and $n2$ is 1, 2 or 3.

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7. A method according to claim 6, wherein $n1$ is 1.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein L is $-CH_2-$.

25 9. A method according to claim 1, wherein R_L is a benzene ring.

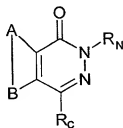
10. A method according to claim 9, wherein R_L is substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of: C_{1-7} alkyl; C_{5-20} aryl; C_{3-20} heterocyclyl; halo; hydroxy; ether; nitro; cyano; carbonyl groups; amino; acylamido; acyloxy; thiol; thioether; sulfoxide; and sulfone.

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11. A method according to claim 10, wherein R_L is substituted by a substituent selected from the group consisting of: acylamido, ureido, sulfonamino, and acyloxy.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the disease mediated by PARP is cancer, and there is additionally administered to the subject chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

13. A method of potentiating tumour cells for treatment with ionising radiation or chemotherapeutic agents comprising administering to said cells a compound of formula:



or an isomer, salt, solvate, chemically protected form, and prodrug thereof, wherein:

A and B together represent an optionally substituted, fused aromatic ring;

R_C is represented by $-L-R_L$, where L is of formula:

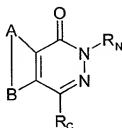
$-(CH_2)_{n1}-Q_{n2}-(CH_2)_{n3}-$

wherein n_1 , n_2 and n_3 are each selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3, the sum of n_1 , n_2 and n_3 is 1, 2 or 3 and Q is selected from O, S, NH, $C(=O)$ or $-CR_1R_2-$, where R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen or optionally substituted

C_{1-7} alkyl, or may together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a C_{3-7} cyclic alkyl group, which may be saturated (a C_{3-7} cycloalkyl group) or unsaturated (a C_{3-7} cycloalkenyl group), or one of R_1 and R_2 may be attached to an atom in R_L to form an unsaturated C_{3-7} cycloalkenyl group

which comprises the carbon atoms to which R_1 and R_2 are attached in Q, $-(CH_2)_{n3}-$ (if present) and part of R_L ; and R_L is optionally substituted C_{5-20} aryl; and R_N is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl, and C_{5-20} aryl, hydroxy, ether, nitro, amino, amido, thiol, thioether, sulfoxide and sulfone.

14. A compound of formula:



or an isomer, salt, solvate, chemically protected form, and prodrug thereof, wherein:

A and B together represent an optionally substituted, fused aromatic ring;

R_C is $-CH_2-R_L$;

R_L is optionally substituted phenyl; and

R_N is hydrogen.

15. A compound according to claim 14, wherein the fused aromatic ring(s) represented by -A-B- consists of solely carbon ring atoms.

16. A compound according to claim 15, wherein the fused aromatic ring represented by -A-B- is benzene.

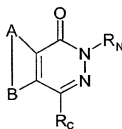
17. A compound according to claim 16, wherein the fused aromatic ring is unsubstituted.

18. A compound according to claim 14, wherein R_L is

substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of: C₁₋₇ alkyl; C₅₋₂₀ aryl; C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl; halo; hydroxy; ether; nitro; cyano; carbonyl groups; amino; acylamido; acyloxy; thiol; thioether; sulfoxide; and sulfone.

19. A compound according to claim 18, wherein R_L is substituted by a substituent selected from the group consisting of: acylamido, ureido, sulfonamino, and acyloxy.

20. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula:



or an isomer, salt, solvate, chemically protected form, and prodrug thereof, wherein:

A and B together represent an optionally substituted, fused aromatic ring;

R_C is -CH₂-R_L;

R_L is optionally substituted phenyl; and

R_N is hydrogen;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.